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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,255	04/24/2001	Ramarathnam Venkatesan	MS1-647US	7357

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EXAMINER
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BALI, VIKKRAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/843,255

Applicant(s)

VENKATESAN ET AL.

Examiner

Vikkram Bali

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 15-19, 64, 65 and 67-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 15-19, 64, 65 and 67-71 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/13/05; 11/02/05; 1/20/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on 12/13/2005, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of

the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-7, 15-19, 64-65 and 67-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull et al (US 5465353).

Regarding Claim 1, Hull discloses a computer-implemented method for hashing a body of text, the method comprising:

obtaining a body of text containing textual content in a computer readable format (Figure 2, numerical 202, the textual content on the paper as to be scanned using the scanner 204);

formatting the body of text into a defined image based format, wherein the textual content of the formatted body of text is immutable via software tools for manipulation of the textual content, (the scanner convert "format" the textual data on the paper numerical 202 of the figure 2 into an image);

deriving a hash value representative of content of the body of text, perceptually distinct bodies of text having hash values that are substantially independent of each other (Figures 2, numerical 214, and see col. 13 lines 30-44, wherein the hash descriptors are created using the word of the document and the descriptors are

“substantially independent of each other” as they are dependent on the lengths of the words) as claimed.

However, he fails to explicitly disclose the textual content of the formatted body of text is immutable via software tools for manipulation of the textual content, as claimed.

But, it is obvious from the reference figure 2 once the scanner 204 scans the document 202 to create an image then the textual content of the document cannot be manipulated by the software tools, because the textual content requires different software tools to manipulate then the image in the computer system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to use the Hull’s system of image retrieval using the textual content hashing of the document by incorporating the obvious nature of the computer system that is, image of the textual content of the document cannot be manipulated by the software tools, because the textual content requires different software tools to manipulate then the image in the computer system.

Regarding Claim 2, Hull further discloses a method as recited in Claim 1, wherein perceptually distinct bodies of text have hash values that are independent of each other (col. 13 lines 30-44, wherein the hash descriptors are created using the word of the document and the descriptors are different as they are dependent on the lengths of the words “perceptually distinct bodies of text have hash values”).

Regarding Claim 3, Hull further discloses a method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising comparing hash values of two bodies of text to determine if such values

match (col. 9, lines 35-40, wherein the hash descriptors are cross referenced in order to query the document database “comparing hash values of two bodies of text to determine if such values match”).

Regarding Claim 4, Hull further discloses a method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising comparing hash values of two bodies of text to determine if such values substantially match (col. 9, lines 35-40, wherein the hash descriptors are cross referenced in order to query the document database “comparing hash values of two bodies of text to determine if such values substantially match”).

Regarding Claim 5, Hull further discloses a method as recited in Claim 4 further comprising indicating whether such values substantially match (col. 9, lines 35-40, wherein the hash descriptors are cross referenced in order to query the document database and figure 3, the accumulator sets all the documents that has the same hashed descriptors “indicating whether such values substantially match”).

With regards to Claims 6, 7 and 64, arguments analogous to those presented for Claim 1 are applicable to Claims 6, 7 and 64.

With regards to Claims 15-17, arguments analogous to those presented for Claims 1-5 are applicable to Claims 15-17. Hull further discloses similar bodies of text having proximally similar hash values (Figures 2, numerical 214, and see col. 13 lines 30-44, wherein the hash descriptors are created using the word of the document and the descriptors are “proximally similar hash values” as they are dependent on the lengths of the words, and if the words are same the hash values will be proximally be similar) as claimed.

With regards to Claims 18, 19 and 65, arguments analogous to those presented for Claims 15-17 are applicable to Claims 18, 19 and 65.

With regards to the claim 67, Hull fails to explicitly disclose indicating suspicion of plagiarism between the two bodies of text when the compared hash values of the two bodies of text substantially match, as claimed. But, it is well known in the art to find out the plagiarism using the hash comparison. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to simply incorporate the well known feature of the comparison of hash values in order to detect the suspicion of plagiarism in the text bodies.

With regards to the claims 68 and 70, Hull further teaches the text comprises multiple words and sentences, (see col. 13, lines 20-30 the two documents use for the example for creating the hash) as claimed.

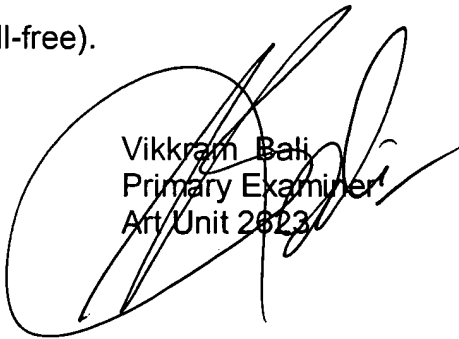
With respect to claim 69 and 71, Hull teaches the test comprises multiple words a sentences, and hash is representative of all the textual content (see col. 13, lines 20-30 the two documents use for the example for creating the hash, and col. 13 lines 30-44, wherein the hash descriptors are created using the word of the document and the descriptors are dependent on the lengths of the words in the document) as claimed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vikkram Bali whose telephone number is 571.272.7415. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on 571.272.7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vikram Bali  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2623

vb  
February 9, 2006



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